

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, June 7, 2002

Bash assumes command of 437 AW

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

Col. Brooks Bash assumed command of the 437th Airlift Wing from Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley in a ceremony Monday.

Four groups with three squadrons each assembled under the hot South Carolina sun for the hour-long ceremony in the C-17 Nose Dock. Maj. Gen. George "Nick" Williams, 21st Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony and spoke fondly of the achievements of the wing and its people. Williams allowed Findley to review the assembled airmen in formation one last time.

The change of command actually occurred when the wing's guidon was passed to Bash during the ceremony to symbolize the change of leadership. Findley commanded the wing since March 20, 2000 and was presented with the Legion of Merit award by Williams for his accomplishments.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of community leaders, active-duty and retired general and flag officers and congressional representative Henry Brown, 1st District. Williams thanked the community members for their support of the military.

Bash, after accepting command, spoke of three priorities for the wing. Those priorities were safety, warrior spirit and taking care of family.

"The 437th Airlift Wing is a very special wing, with its roots going all the way back to World War II to being on the leading edge of missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom," Bash said. "I look forward to sustaining that outstanding reputation."

"Safety is the most important priority," he continued. "When I visit the work centers, I will look at your operations from a safety perspective."

"Second, warrior spirit means a can-do attitude to get the job done, and as some would say, getting the stuff to the fight," he said. "We are in a global war against terrorism. This wing will continue to support that war in the foreseeable future. We don't know where the next Afghanistan will be. Warrior spirit attitude is important to get that job done."

Bash mentioned the final priority is for the wing to take care of two families.

"The first family is your co-workers, the Air Force family," he said. "There



Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky

Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, accepts command of the wing and the wing guidon from Maj. Gen. George "Nick" Williams, 21st Air Force commander, during the wing change of command ceremony here Monday.

are many demands on our force. On a professional basis, we must take time to teach and mentor our coworkers and subordinates to ensure they know how to take care of the mission.

"The second part of the family is at home," Bash continued. "Twelve-hour shifts, short-notice TDYs and deployments that last months at a time, all these sacrifices to protect our nation take a heavy toll on our families."

He urged everyone to help those families during those times when sacrifices are made.

Williams also spoke of sacrifice and the outstanding efforts of the base personnel, highlighting a number of Findley's accomplishments.

"I am proud of each and every one of you," Williams said. "Today is one of those bittersweet days where we thank the Findley's for their contributions to our military, but it's bittersweet because we have to bid them farewell."

He recounted the many accomplishments of the wing during Findley's tenure, to include 80,000

hours flown in the past two years, with everyone coming home safe and sound.

Charleston people have developed and perfected the combat tactics for airlift forces, Williams said.

"You provided the initial cadre that trained C-17 aircrews on the use of night vision goggles for operations in Afghanistan. The program has become a standard for the entire force today," Williams explained. He also mentioned the base's efforts in building up Camp X-ray, the detention camp for Taliban and Al-Qaida terrorists in Cuba.

Of all the C-17 sorties flown in Operation Enduring Freedom, Team Charleston has flown about 75 percent, according to Williams. He recited a number of improvements to facilities and runway improvements under Findley's leadership and said he expects many more under Bash's command.

Bash joins the base from Washington D.C. where he was the deputy executive secretary for the National Security Council in the Executive Of-

fice of the President under the Clinton and Bush administrations. He has been an operational commander on three occasions and started his military career flying C-141Bs at McGuire AFB, N.J. He is a command pilot with more than 5,600 hours in the KC-10A, C-141B, C-9A/C, C-32, UH-1N, C-20B/H, C-37, T-38, T-38 and now the C-17A.

Colonel Bash will command one of the most important commands in our entire Air Force, Williams explained and added that he will establish his own great legacy.

Findley, in his farewell remarks, thanked the wing for their tremendous pride, professionalism and passion for the flag, and their great support.

"Thanks for making the last two-plus years the most enriching times of our lives," Findley said. "We went to war together, and I will be eternally thankful that you were at my side. I know that Team Charleston will continue to be at the forefront of all the great things this nation does."

IN THE NEWS

Letters from the Front to visit CAFB: National production uses actual letters from past conflicts to tell emotional story of war from homefront

By Airman 1st Class Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

A free performance of *Letters from the Front: World War II*, is scheduled for Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., in the base theater.

According to the *Letters from the*

Front World War II fact sheet, in the fall of 1990, when daily newscasts were filled with stories about deployments to the Persian Gulf, a husband and wife team, Robert Rector and Marsha Roberts, began to develop a play about personal letters written by soldiers and their loved ones through-

out American history.

A common misconception about the show is that it is only about the letters.

"It's not just reading letters," said Laura Abell, 437th Services Squadron marketing director. "It's entertainment and music; they even do the jitterbug."

Abell said the play is a three-act, two-hour walk through history.

According to the fact sheet, the powerful message behind the actual war correspondence provides the channel for this poignant and surprisingly funny story of the home front in 1945.

During the course of three acts, this play moves Katharine Hartgrove, a renowned writer whose son is fighting with the 5th Army in Northern Italy, and Johnny Chastain, a popular celebrity, through a series of conflicts that more deeply connect the audience to personal experiences related in these letters.

The play's character and themes remain the same as the original Desert Storm version, said Rector.

"We use actual letters from all major American wars, and that interests everyone," said Rector. "And the letters we use are incredibly human. We've had many people come up to us

after a show amazed that letters written 100 years ago expressed feelings they have today."

Roberts said that after the events of Sept. 11, military members take letters that deal with combat very seriously.

"From those who have gone before them, they understand in a very personal way how ordinary Americans have fought for our freedom with such courage and honor throughout the years," Rector said. "It connects them strongly to their own sense of pride as a soldier, sailor, airman or marine."

Rector Roberts Productions has bought its International Theatrical Company to perform *Letters from the Front* to over 150 military installations worldwide.

Abell said although the play is a family event, it is more suitable for middle-school aged children.

Tickets are not necessary, said Abell. Military members can just show up at the theater for the show.

"This is also an Around the World in Ninety Days event," said Abell. "We'll give out ATWIND game pieces at the show."

Abell is also asking for volunteers for Tuesday's show. For more information or to sign up, call Abell at 963-3809 or John Hattel at 963-3815.



Photo by Warren Love

Katharine Hartgrove (played by Bobbi Kravis) and Johnny Chastain (played by Bob Curren) cut a mean jitterbug in one of the most popular scenes from *Letters from the Front: WWII*, scheduled for Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., at the base theater.

Researchers study crew rest to optimize performance

By Staff Sgt. Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Crews from each of Charleston AFB's active-duty airlift squadrons are undergoing sleep research in hopes of finding the perfect sleep schedule for future missions.

Researchers from the U.S. Air Force Lab, Brooks AFB, Texas, and the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Kirtland AFB, N.M., are conducting the sleep research during real-world missions flown by the 14th, 15th and 17th Airlift Squadrons.

Dr. Bill Storm, senior research scientist from the Air Force Lab, said sleep research for the Air Force is not new. The Air Force has been conducting sleep studies for more than 25 years, and Storm worked with CAFB C-141 crews in the 1970s and 1980s. He said the reason for his current visit is to look at a new software program called the Fatigue Avoidance Scheduling Tool.

"FAST allows us to take the work schedule of a secu-

rity force member or pilot and compare it to their sleep schedule," said Storm. "We can look at a particular mission and say, 'Here's what time the drop is. If you take a nap at this particular time in the mission, you'll be at your maximum performance capability for the drop.'"

"Seldom can we say, 'That's a bad time to bomb,'" continued Storm. "My philosophy is that any sleep is good sleep. However, there are certain times during the duration of a long mission when you'll get a more restorative sleep at one point in that mission than another."

Knowing when a person needs sleep and when they will be at their maximum performance level is based on the Circadian Rhythm, according to Storm. Everyone has a Circadian Rhythm, or body clock, that runs for about 24 hours. At about the 18-hour point of being awake, a person will start to experience performance deficit.

"At 18 hours, you'll start feeling tired, like you need sleep," Storm said. "There's

a reason for that. Your Circadian Rhythm is on the downside. You will start having reaction time problems, and if you stay awake that whole first day, your performance will drop by 20 or 25 percent."

A person needs between 7.5 and 8.5 hours of sleep every night, according to Storm. He said a lot of people get by on 6 hours regularly, and because of the lack of sleep, they're not performing at their maximum level.

Overseas missions also greatly affect the performance of aircrews because of the difference between a crewmember's body clock and the cultural clock for the area they may have to fly to. According to Storm, it's not practical for an aircrew member to try to adapt to a new area's cultural clock. For instance, it would take a person about six days to prepare their body clock for Germany's cultural clock (about one hour of adjustment per day.) Since most crews don't have six day's notice, and since adjusting a body clock involves things like black out curtains,

Storm said it's best just to get as much sleep as possible before departing CAFB.

The FAST software being studied here will account for things like sleep attained prior to departing CAFB. Storm said the sleep schedules of the aircrews being studied are recorded prior to leaving for a mission. During the mission, crewmembers wear actigraphs, watch-like sleep monitors, to record the times when they are asleep. When the crews return, information from the actigraphs is downloaded into the software.

"Pilots are also completing a vision reaction test three or four times each day," said Storm. "The test is very sensitive to tracking sleep loss."

Currently, a researcher is flying with each of the crews to help measure sleep patterns and recommend prime times to nap. Storm said the researchers are traveling with the test crews as they fly to Germany to take part in Operation Enduring Freedom missions.

Eventually, Storm would

like to see all the research pay off in the form of user-friendly software that flight-planning officials can use while scheduling missions. With a few keystrokes, FAST should be able to list the best times to sleep during any mission and what a person's performance level will look like if they follow the recommendations.

The CAFB crews taking part in the study have been more than cooperative, according to Master Sgt. Michelle LaCasse, AFOTEC test manager. She said although the study has meant imposing on the crews and asking them to do extra work, everyone has been friendly and willing to help in any way possible.

LaCasse, who personally served as a C-130 and E-4 crewmember for 14 years, said the researchers have done their best to educate the crews on exactly what they're studying and how they hope FAST will pay off for crews in the future.

LaCasse said researchers will return to CAFB in 60-120 days to present their findings to base officials.

Power outage Sunday caused by stray tarp

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB went without power Sunday, but not for long, thanks to the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron.

According to Capt. Elwood Henry, 437 CES chief of maintenance engineering, the outage occurred when a tarp from the new Commissary construction site blew

across power lines at about 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

"It caused the three-phase power running through the lines to phase together," Henry said. "This caused an arc, a spark of electricity across all three lines, which caused power lines to come down. At the substation, it damaged some components and caused everything to short out, which is when the power for the rest of the base went down."

Henry said nine spans of electric line, light pole to light pole, fell between the Base Exchange and the electrical substation on Hill Boulevard.

"The downed lines caused a couple of small grass fires near West Jackson (Avenue) and the Child Development Center," Henry said. "It was a potentially dangerous situation. The Fire Department and security forces did an excellent job initially responding and securing the area."

Henry said members of the exterior electric shop were called in to resolve the situation. Once the area was deemed safe for work, Billy Graham, David Hooton, Jeffrey Williams, Staff Sgt. Darren Schenck, Staff Sgt. James Whitfield, Senior Airman Scott Schwede, Senior Airman Gregory Glinka and Senior Airman Jeffrey Prish, all from the 437 CES Exterior Electric Flight, went to work getting the lights back on to the area of the base where circuits and lines weren't damaged.

The 437 CES members spent time figuring out how to reroute the power supply around the damaged areas.

Once that was accomplished, areas were back fed and power was restored by 5:10 p.m. to most of the base.

To return power to the BX, Commissary, Shoppette, Child Development Center and Youth Center, shop members stayed on the job re-stringing power lines in that area until 1:30 a.m. Monday, when power was back fed from Hunley Park, according to Ronald Wiggins, 437 CES infrastructure superintendent.

Wiggins said the squadron received a number of calls praising the amount of work done to return power so quickly after the incident.

"We isolated the critical area and worked it until one in the morning to fix it," Wiggins said.

He said it was amazing that the squadron was able to pull so many people in to fix the problem on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

Also called out to keep

things going were Airman 1st Class Paul Villanueva and Staff Sgt. Richard Pugh, from the 437 CES power pro shop, and several HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) technicians, according to Henry.

Henry said Villanueva and Pugh ensured generators supplying base facilities were working properly and transfers from main power to generator were successful.

HVAC spent time checking the air conditioning units at base facilities, which are susceptible to a variety of problems after a power surge.

According to Henry, they stayed on the job until at least 2 a.m. Monday doing what they could to keep Team Charleston members comfortable for the first day of the work week.

"It was an impressive, incredible effort by our CE Outlaws," said Lt. Col. Maria Dowling, 437 CES commander. "They're always ready and able to get the job done."



Photo by Capt. Elwood Henry

Senior Airmen Gregg Glinka and Jeffrey Prish, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron re-string power lines following Sunday's power outage. Power was restored to most of the base by 5:10 p.m.

New cars keep security forces on road

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

Members of the 437th Security Forces Squadron are cruising the streets in style since receiving new patrol cars recently.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Terry Smith, 315th Security Forces Squadron security forces manager, the three 2002 Chevrolet Impalas are a welcome change.

"These guys are coming out of cars with 158,000-190,000 plus miles," Smith said. "They spend 12-14 hours a day in these cars. They needed something decent to drive."

According to Senior Airman Eddie Meredith, 437 SFS vehicle control NCO, almost every other base in Air Mobility Command already received new cars.

"We have four '97 Lumina (Chevrolet), and we've been trying to get new cars since then," Meredith said. "We also have two '94s and a '95. They're in TRANS (437th Transportation Squadron) more than they're on the road."

Since the original delivery date came and went more than a year ago, Meredith said the new cars' arrival was something of a surprise.

Getting the new vehicles was only half the battle, according to Smith. Though the cars came with a "police pack," which included a heavy-duty transmission and wiring harnesses for other accessories, such as lights and sirens, a lot more had to be done

before they were ready to hit the streets.

Because the squadron lacked funds to contract the work off-base, the 437 TRANS installed light bars, public address systems, switch assemblies, flashers and everything else necessary to get the cars patrolling, according to Smith.

"They did an awesome job," Smith said. "They did everything needed, with the exception of the radios, which is when we called in Carter Communications."

The communications company installed the vehicles' radios and tuned the antennas so they can receive a signal anywhere on base, Smith said.

Once the radios were installed, the cars were turned back over to the 437 TRANS for installation of the transport cage, which separates the back of the vehicle from the front, according to Smith.

The final step was putting the markings on the cars, Smith said.

Smith said while the 437 TRANS was finishing up the three cars, two more arrived, one of which will go to the military working dog flight.

So far, security forces members are enjoying a number of the vehicles features, according to Senior Airman Renaldo Dupree, 437 SFS installation entry controller and security response team member.

"They're equipped with the tools we need to make the job easier," Dupree said. "They give a more professional appearance."

Jumper selects next CMSAF

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper named Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Murray on May 24 to serve as the 14th chief master sergeant of the Air Force.

Murray will assume his new position July 1, following the June 28 retirement of Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch. Finch's retirement culminates 28 years of service to the Air Force.

Jumper said the selection process was a difficult one.

"The selection was difficult because the candidates were all so exceptionally qualified," the general said.

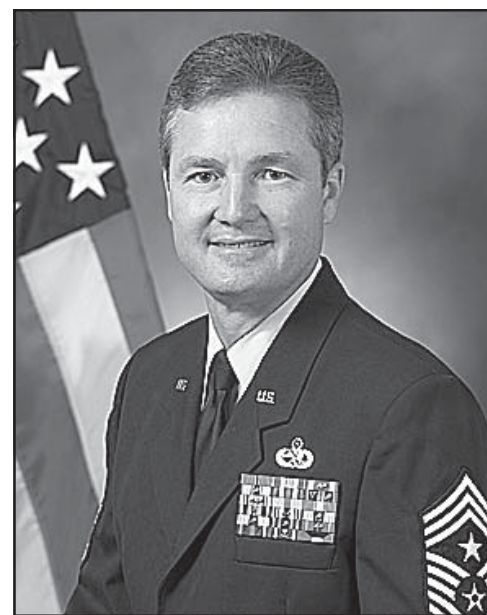
"The Air Force is fortunate to have someone of Murray's caliber leading our enlisted force during this exciting time in our service's history," Jumper continued.

"His valuable experience and proven leadership will play a pivotal role in the Air Force's future," he said. "I look forward to working with him on matters of importance to the enlisted force and their families."

Murray, who joined the Air Force in October 1977, is currently the command chief master sergeant for Pacific Air Forces.

His career includes various assignments in aircraft maintenance and as the command chief master sergeant for the 347th Wing at Moody AFB, Ga., as well as U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force, both located at Yokota AB, Japan.

The office of the chief master ser-



Courtesy photo

Chief Master Sgt. Gerald R. Murray has been selected to serve as the 14th chief master sergeant of the Air Force. Murray, who replaces the retiring Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch, assumes his new position July 1.

geant of the Air Force represents the highest enlisted level of leadership, provides direction for the enlisted corps, and represents their interests to the American public and to all levels of government.

The CMSAF serves as a personal adviser to the Air Force chief of staff and secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, proper utilization, and progress of the enlisted force and their families. (AFNS.)

Load shedding helps CAFB conserve energy

By Airman 1st Class Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

As the summer temperature heats up, Team Charleston members may notice it in and outside their homes and workplaces.

The 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Base Energy Management Office works to control the amount of kilowatt hours Charleston AFB uses.

"We have an automatic demand limited system that works to limit that power requirement by shutting down electrical loads," said Darrell Guidry, 437 CES base energy manager. "We have an electrical power kwh maximum on base."

Guidry said the local electric company provides CAFB with a maximum amount of kwh. Any time CAFB exceeds this limit, he said they are subject to higher electricity rates and breach of contract.

To counteract this, he said, the base uses the demand-limiting reduction system to shut off certain units to reduce the amount of energy CAFB uses.

"When the base is up and running (during the work day), we have the load shedding capability to automatically and periodically shut down military family housing air conditioners and industrial facilities,"

said Guidry. "In MFH, the unit randomly chooses air conditioners to shut off for seven and a half minutes. During the work day, this can also happen to the industrial facilities."

Guidry said the air conditioners are not shut off long enough for the MFH members to notice unless the temperature is excessively hot.

Another member of the 437 CES base energy management office said that even when the base is not load shedding, MFH air conditioners may not be working at top performance.

"The geothermal air conditioning units' top efficiency running level is for 92 degrees outside," said Chris Gaines, 437 CES base energy management office. "For every degree over 92, it lowers the efficiency of the unit."

"A good rule of thumb is that if there's a 20-degree difference between the temperature inside and outside, then that's good," Gaines continued. "To help alleviate problems, people have to help by keeping doors and windows closed."

Load shedding helps CAFB conserve energy, said Guidry.

"Without load shedding, we wouldn't be able to stay at our energy maximum," Guidry said. "With load shedding, we haven't exceeded

our maximum, and that's because of our energy conservation."

Energy conservation isn't just important at CAFB. In 1985, the Air Force required all military bases to have a 30 percent decrease in energy consumption, from their level in 1985, by 2005, said Guidry.

"With our new demand-limit system, we lead Air Mobility Command in energy consumption reduction," Guidry said. "We are above 30 percent and have led AMC nearly every year, with few exceptions."

"The main reason is the new geothermal air conditioning units, new lighting upgrades and the new demand-limiting reduction system," he continued.

To keep the energy consumption low, Guidry said they need Team Charleston's help.

"Individual people, homes or buildings can make that much of a difference," said Guidry. "But Team Charleston collectively can make a difference."

Gaines said that energy consumption comes at a cost.

"There's always a price to pay for energy consumption," said Gaines. "The cost is comfort. For example, instead of having air conditioners set at 72 degrees, try 76. Every little bit helps."

Tips to beat the heat

- Learn the signs and symptoms of heat-induced illnesses
- Train personnel about heat-induced illnesses
- Slowly build up the tolerance to heat
- Do work activity early in the morning or late in the evening
- Use the buddy system
- Drink plenty of cool water
- Wear light, loose fitting, clothing when possible
- Take frequent breaks in cool shaded areas
- Avoid eating large meals in hot environments
- Avoid caffeine and alcoholic beverages
- When wearing personal protective equipment, establish a work/rest cycle
- Watch weather reports and stay informed of the temperature

NEWS BRIEFS

Charleston Warrior of the Week



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Smith

Staff Sgt. Sandra Robinson 17th Airlift Squadron

Staff Sgt. Sandra Robinson is a personnel specialist in the 17th Airlift Squadron orderly room.

Robinson, who has been in the Air Force for seven years, said she takes care of personnel issues for the pilots and loadmasters assigned to the 17 AS. She also runs the leave program, performs TDY duty updates and a variety of other personnel-related jobs.

"The best part of my job is working with people," Robinson said. "I like making a difference and solving their problems."

Robinson came to Charleston AFB from Eielson AFB, Alaska. Before that, she was stationed at Dyess AFB, Texas.

Currently, Robinson is 12 credits away from her bachelor's degree at Southern Illinois University. She said she plans to continue pursuing her education and hopes to complete her master's degree before she retires from the Air Force.

"I'm going to try for OTS (officer training school), but I'm staying in either way," Robinson said.

In her free time, Robinson said she enjoys reading and spending time with her family.

Robinson and her husband, Staff Sgt. Michael Robinson, 437th Logistics Group Quality Assurance, have two children, Damien, 5, and Breana, 2.

address the group, and lunch will be provided. All chiefs and chief selectees are eligible to attend.

Prostate screening: A prostate cancer screening day is scheduled for June 21, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at the Urology Clinic on the fifth floor of Naval Hospital Charleston. All male active-duty members and retirees over age 45 are eligible to attend. The screening is by appointment only. To schedule a screening, call 743-7252.

ACSC seminar: The Community Education Center is now seeking eligible candidates (major-selects and above in all service components and GM/GS-11s and above) for the Air Command and Staff College seminar program. The seminar begins in early August and concludes in June 2003. Members meet once a week for a three-hour session. Enrollment by June 30 is encouraged to ensure receipt of course materials prior to seminar activation. In addition to the traditional seminar, ACSC will provide eligible candidates with a Cyber Seminar program. For more information, contact the CEC at 963-4578.

Spotlight

Retreat: The men and women of the 437th Supply Squadron will honor Lt. Col. George Pierce with a retreat ceremony today, 4:30 p.m., at the base flagpole.

Change of command: Lt. Col. Clifton Douglas Jr. will become the new commander of the 1st Combat Camera Squadron when Lt. Col. Randy McCanne relinquishes command during a ceremony June 12, 10 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Col. Kip Self, 621st Air Mobility Operations Group commander, will officiate the ceremony. A reception will follow. For more information, call 1st Lt. Ty Shadle at 963-3541 or 2nd Lt. Scott Vandiver at 963-5454.

Retirement: The 437th Aerial Port Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Copeland Jr. June 14, 10 a.m., in the Air Mobility Command Passenger Terminal (Bldg. 164).

Around the base

AAHC: The African American Heritage Council is holding a membership drive during June and July. The council will meet today, June 19, July 12 and 24, 11:30 a.m., in the Wings Bar at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Denese Bellamy at 963-2262 or Tech. Sgt. Steven Beasley at 963-5082.

ERAU: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University will hold a combined Charleston-Shaw Center graduation

commencement Saturday, 10 a.m., aboard the Yorktown Aircraft Carrier at Patriot's Point. Dr. Barry Benedict, chief academic officer for the university, is scheduled to be the commencement speaker. Benedict and Dr. Thomas Henkel, Southeast Region manager, Extended Campus, ERAU, will confer the degrees.

Steak out: The Charleston AFB Top 3 Association is hosting a steak out Wednesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Base Picnic Grounds. Tickets are \$5 per meal and include an eight-ounce rib-eye steak, baked potato, baked beans and a drink. Deadline to purchase tickets is today.

JHCAC: There will be a meeting of the Joint Healthcare Consumers Advisory Council Thursday, 2 p.m., at the Red Bank Club on the Naval Weapons Station. The council will discuss the latest healthcare benefits issues resulting from the National Defense Authorization Act and receive updates from Naval Hospital Charleston and the Charleston AFB clinic on local healthcare services. For more information, call Ellen Baker at 743-7607.

Closure: A portion of North O'Neal Avenue will be closed, from the entrance of the Youth Center to the stop sign at Lawson Drive, from 8 a.m. June 14 until 4 p.m. June 15. The alternate route to access this area will be from Hill Boulevard to West Jackson Drive to Batson Drive to Gross Avenue, which goes back to North O'Neal Avenue. For more in-

formation, call Will Coker at 963-4961.

Red Cross training: Red Cross Medical Assistant Training Program classes are scheduled to begin June 24. The program is open to family members of active-duty and retired military personnel. The six-month course requires five-days per week attendance. Attendees will learn practical and on-the-job training about obtaining vital signs, interviewing patients and assisting with invasive procedures, to name a few. Applications are available at the Family Practice Clinic and must be submitted by June 17. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Karen Smith at 963-6714 or Master Sgt. Noble Lisenbee at 963-6780.

Briefings: The Community Education Center will begin offering commissioning briefings on a monthly basis effective June 19. The briefings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. The primary purpose of the briefings is to give airmen enough information to make an informed decision on which commissioning program works best for them. Attendance is mandatory prior to making a commissioning appointment with the guidance counselor. For more information, call the CEC at 963-4575.

Chiefs' Group: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group will hold its monthly meeting June 20, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Representatives from Bank of America will

Consignment shop: The Consignment Shop is extending their consigning hours, and the number of consignment items has increased to 24 each time. Consigning hours are extended to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The shop is also open Tuesday nights from 6-8 p.m., taking consignments until 7:30 p.m. It is also open the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., consigning until 12:30 p.m. The shop is especially looking for items to fill the Furniture Room. These items usually sell fast and earn the consigners a nice profit, according to the shop's staff. The shop is located at 203 Graves St., across from the 437th Security Forces Building. For more information, call 963-3294.

Family Support Center

TAP 3-Day Workshop: June 11-13, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Educational Opportunities Counseling: June 11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Resume II: June 18, 9-10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-noon

Thrift Savings Plan Briefing: June 19, 8:30-10 a.m.

Families and Divorce: June 19, 1-2:30 p.m.

Sponsorship Training: June 19, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Troops to Teachers: June 24, 10-11 a.m.

Smooth Move Workshop: June 27, 8:30 a.m.-noon

All workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For more information, or to register, call the Family Support Center at 963-4406.

COMMENTARY

Savings Bond campaign kicks off; 437 AW leadership changes

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

From my point of view, as the commander of the troops for the change of command parade, I was extremely proud of everyone's support of the 437th Airlift Wing Change of Command Ceremony Monday. The preparation was evident to everyone in attendance, and I heard a number of compliments from our invited guests. I know it was a lot of hard work. A special thanks to Lt. Col. Herb Phillips, 437th Maintenance Squadron commander, and the Protocol office for their outstanding efforts in making the Bash's feel welcome.

The annual Savings Bonds campaign kicked off Monday and will run for the month of June. You can buy savings bonds for a small amount of money—the minimum investment is \$25. They're lower risk than most investments, since both principal and interest are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States, and lost, stolen, or destroyed bonds can be replaced. There are no commissions or similar fees. Interest is exempt from State and local income tax, and federal income taxation can be postponed until you cash your bond or until it stops earning interest in 30 years. Savings Bonds are also a great way to reduce the nation's public debt and can be used to pay for a family member's college education tax-free.

The base project officer is 2nd Lt. Lara Cristofori at 963-4881. Additional information about Savings Bonds can be found on the Web at www.savingsbond.gov or through your group or squadron representative. Our goal in this campaign is to have 100 percent contact.

We had an unexpected basewide power outage on Sunday during one of the hottest days of the year. Our 437th Civil Engineer Squadron immediately sprang into action to restore power as quickly as possible. You can read all about their efforts on page 3. It is also a good time to note the need for all of us to look for ways to reduce our power consumption and ease the strain on our aging power distribution system to prevent future outages.

I attended the Diamond Sharp ceremony where we recognized the following airmen who impressed their first sergeants: Staff Sgt. **David Walters**, 373rd Training Squadron, Detachment 5; Staff Sgt. **William Giles**, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron; Staff Sgt. **Sandquette Simmons**, 437th Security Forces Squadron and Airman **Jay Perez**, 437th Transportation Squadron. Also, receiving his Diamond Sharp recognition from last month was Staff Sgt. **Jonathan Haigler**, 437 CES.

The Warrior Gathering was a great success, as always, on Thursday. The 437th Operations Group provided a

superb briefing on HUMRO operations, the tactical insertion of the Marines into Camp Rhino and our current deployed operations supporting the war on terrorism. We used the base theater for the first time because of the growing size of the crowd.

Earlier in the morning, we held the first phase of the warrior competition where group teams competed in the "deployed setup and survive phase" of the competition. For example, each group member went through a mock mobility processing line, performed self-aid and buddy care, and demonstrated their deployed combat skills as outlined in the Airman's Manual.

Besides the wing change of command, squadron changes of command abound. Maj. **John Keffer** assumed command of the 437th Communications Squadron from Maj. **Jeff Schwefler** on Thursday. Schwefler is headed to the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Keffer joins us from Headquarters North American Defense Command and U.S. Space Command at Peterson AFB, Colo., where he was a space control C4 systems officer in the J6 directorate.

Lt. Col. **Clifton Douglas Jr.** will assume command of the 1st Combat Camera Squadron from Lt. Col. **Randy McCanne** on Monday. McCanne will head to NATO Air South at Naples, Italy, where he will become a communications staff officer. Douglas was the chief of operations and plans at Defense Visual Information, American Forces Information Service, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), Washington, D.C. Col. **Kip Self**, commander of the 621st Air Mobility Operations Group commander and soon to be our next vice commander, will preside over the ceremony.

Lt. Col. **Daniel Flynn** will assume command of the 437th Medical Support Squadron from Lt. Col. **Ivan Sherard Jr.** on Tuesday. Flynn joins us from the Pentagon where he was a member of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force Operations Group, Headquarters United States Air Force. Sherard is headed to assume command of the 86th Medical Support Squadron at Ramstein AB, Germany.

Everyone is invited to see the free two-hour theater production called "Letters from the Front: WWII" at the base theater Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. We have hosted this group several times in the past, and it has always been a great crowd pleaser. You definitely don't want to miss this production revolving around two very dynamic characters that includes music, dancing and an overall great night of theater! See the article on page 2.

We will welcome Lt. Gen. Glen "Wally" Moorehead III, U.S. Air Forces in Europe vice commander, and a group of German civic leaders for a base visit on Wednesday and Thursday. The civic leaders are coming from the communities outside Spangdahlem AB and Ramstein AB; we're fortunate to have the respective commanders from the 52nd Fighter Wing and the 86th Airlift Wing also join their civic leaders on this trip. We know this group will be impressed with our people, mission and facilities.

Show your support for the Top 3 Association during their Steak Out on Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the base picnic grounds. Tickets are only \$5 for a great steak meal. Today is the deadline for tickets.

The base is in full swing for the Around the World in 90 Days campaign, which runs throughout this summer. You have probably already received a few ATWIND game pieces, and we need maximum participation so that the base can receive some money back. It only takes a few seconds to register via their Web site, www.atwind.com, or by calling (888) 597-9960. Let's get off to a good start by everyone participating. You could win many prizes!

Finally, we are in the summer season, please take extra care to be safe in all your work and play activities. Have a great weekend.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky
Col. Karl Young, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, reviews a formation with Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley one last time before the wing change of command ceremony Monday.

About the paper

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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10 quotes that define good leadership

By Lt. Col. John Sieverling
308th Fighter Squadron commander

What better way to explain what leadership means than by sharing several quotes that have left a lasting impression on me during 10 assignments spanning 18 years of military service.

10. **"Take care of your people, and they'll take care of you."** I'm not sure who came up with this early version of "putting people first." It should be rather obvious, but too many superiors, myself included at times, spend too much time passing e-mail back and forth instead of getting out of the office and personally interacting with people. Loyalty and trust work both ways.

9. **"If Mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy."** Yes, this is a leadership quote, even if I read it on my mother-in-law's potholder. The obligations of military duty often conflict with achieving marital bliss, but take every opportunity to make sure your significant other is enjoying the ride. Also, a quick "How's it going?" phone call to that deployed member's spouse will do more for retention than you will ever know.

8. **"A good plan, violently**

executed now, is better than a perfect plan next week." General Patton was obviously speaking in terms of land combat, but I contend this certainly applies in peacetime as well. Nothing can be more frustrating than waiting days or weeks for the boss to make that perfect decision. Get the best information available, make the call and move ahead.

7. **"Treat others like you want to be treated."** A very famous Jewish carpenter said this more than 2000 years ago, but the "Golden Rule" holds true in leadership situations as well. When you think that your rank permits you to be rude or disrespectful, please seek alternative employment — you are now demanding respect instead of commanding it. That sucking sound was your departing credibility.

6. **"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."** This is General Patton's ultimate anti-micro-management quote. Although it's often easier to tell your subordinates exactly how to do a particular task, who says you know the smartest way to do it? Micromanagement stifles initiative and kills motiva-

tion. The folks in the trenches know the best way, so practice "centralized control and decentralized execution" and get out of the way.

5. **"You don't get promoted; your records do."** I'm not sure when I first heard this one, but it makes enormous sense. Your subordinate may, in fact, be the sharpest officer or NCO meeting that board, but if his or her records don't say so, too bad. Individually, make sure your records are error-free months before that board convenes.

4. **"You catch more flies with honey than vinegar."** I've seen too many junior NCOs and officers try to use their rank to solve problems instead of using kindergarten basics like courtesy and respect. While you don't have to "sell" your guidance, there is no reason to immediately pull rank or talk down to a subordinate. Always reach for the carrot first; use the stick only as a last resort.

3. **"When the eagles are silent, the parrots will begin to jabber."** Winston Churchill offered some great advice to those in leadership positions: glaring problems in your unit won't go away by ignoring them and get worse as the rumor mill

cranks up. Know what your airmen are concerned about and confront those issues head-on, however unpleasant it may be.

2. **"Be an example to your men in your duty and in private life. Never spare yourself, and let the troops see that you don't in your endurance of fatigue and privation. Always be tactful and well-mannered, and teach your subordinates to be the same. Avoid excessive sharpness or harshness of voice, which usually indicates the man who has shortcomings of his own to hide."** I wasn't too fond of this long quote I had to memorize 22 years ago at the Air Force Academy, but Field Marshall Erwin Rommel puts leadership by example in a nutshell. Enough said.

1. **"The three Fs of priorities: Faith, Family, and Air Force."** Not many commanders will say your job comes in third place behind your relatives and your spiritual health, but I contend this is the proper priority for a successful Air Force career of any length. Ask any former POW what carried them through their ordeal. If you are not actively growing in your faith, please visit your local chaplain or place of worship as soon as possible — there is nothing more important.

Watch what you say, someone is listening!

By 2nd Lt. Alysia Harvey
347 RW Public Affairs

Did you know that a simple phone conversation with your loved one in a deployed location could put him or her in danger?

When you send e-mails or faxes or have a phone conversation, did you know a spy or terrorist could be listening? Even when you are on a government computer or a DSN line?

"Everyone wants to know what you are talking about," said Tech. Sgt. Paul Farrington, the 347th Rescue Wing, Moody AFB, Ga., telephone control officer.

DSN circuits connect through commercial sectors, so conversations can be heard by anyone with a scanner.

"We need to get back to the basics of disclosing information on a need-to-know basis only and think about communication security," Farrington said.

Communication security is making sure what you say can be said, and it is important for everyone to always think about what they are saying before they say it, Farrington said.

Everyone is affected by

one person's negligence of communication security. Terrorists and spies can use bits of information from several people and build on them.

For example, Mr. Smith gets a call from his spouse, Lieutenant Smith, who is deployed. She tells him about a dust storm last night. A terrorist or spy listening to the conversation with a scanner can go online and search for all the places in the world where dust storms occurred and narrow it down to certain locations.

Airman Jones then talks to her husband on a DSN line and tells him she just found out she is deploying to an undisclosed location in a week.

Captain Johnson faxes Airman Jones' orders to Lieutenant Smith at the "undisclosed location" via an unsecured fax.

Sally Spy or Terry Terrorist, who has been tracking these conversations using a facsimile scanner, starts to plan the attack. Sally or Terry gets a copy of the orders using the same scanner, whites out the original name, types in a new name, then calls

Lieutenant Smith to inform her of the changes. Smith approves the changes, sends the information to the gate guard and requests there be a pass ready for the new-comer. Then it is instant access to the base for Sally Spy or Terry Terrorist.

"Although some people probably think that the scenario is far fetched and just a scare tactic, after the events of Sept. 11, I think we can all agree that the enemy could be anywhere," said Senior Airman Danielle Davis, Moody AFB communications security accountant.

Communication security negligence happens in everyday situations. Examples include people not setting passwords for voicemail systems; leaving classified material in common areas; or chatting in restaurants, bars, beauty salons, the grocery store or any well-frequented place.

"The importance of communication security can be summed up very simply," Davis said. "You're the one who's going to war and getting shot at. Do you really want the enemy to know where you are or what you're doing?"



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Buytas, 1 CTCS

Digin

More than 500 Afghan recruits eat lunch at a chow hall at a military academy near Kabul, Afghanistan. The recruits are being instructed by U.S. soldiers. This photograph is a 1st Combat Camera Squadron Photo of the Week.

FEATURE

ORC helps Team Charleston take the 'plunge'

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class Amy Perry
 437 AW Public Affairs

Open Water dive students sought certification in Florida Saturday and Sunday.

The 437th Services Squadron Outdoor Recreation Center offers dive certification to all Charleston AFB military members.

"The ORC offers certifications anywhere from Open Water, Advanced Open Water, Rescue Diver and Dive Master," said Rick Baker, ORC program manager and Professional Association of Diving Instructors certified instructor. "The ORC offers about five-six Open Water classes and one-two Advanced Open Water classes a year. We provide the Rescue Diver course and the Dive Master course on an as needed basis."

According to the PADI website, Open Water certification is the first step in diving certifications. Open Water divers can dive to a depth not exceeding 60 feet. To become an Advanced Open Water certified diver, one must have four logged dives from the Open Water program. To be certified, the divers must compete five specialty dives. A deep water and underwater navigation dive is required, and divers may chose three elective dives such as search and recovery, wreck, night or boat diver.

After becoming Advanced Open Water certified, the next step is to become a Rescue Diver, according to the PADI website. A Rescue Diver learns self-rescue and diver stress, diving first aid, emergency management and equipment considerations, panicked diver response, in-water artificial respiration and dive accident scenarios.

After logging more than 60 dives and completing the above courses, a diver may become a Dive Master, according to the PADI website. A Dive Master can act as a certified instructional assistant to a PADI certified instructor and teach portions of the course. They can also enroll in PADI's Instructor level training.

Certification is necessary to dive all over the world, said Baker.

"In the Open Water course, there are three class sessions and three pool sessions," said Baker. "In class, we teach the physiology of diving, proper use of the dive tables, the different dive gear and diving techniques. In the pool session, we use confined water to learn the application of diving skills."

After the sessions, Baker takes the classes to Crystal River, Fla., to put their diving skills to the test.

"In Florida, we use the dives to get out of confined water, and put the students into real life situations to see how they react to the skills they have to know to be an efficient diver," said Baker.

While in Crystal River, Fla., the divers are taken to two rivers to practice their skills.

"We use the rivers in Florida because you almost can always get the dives, and you don't have to deal with the changing ocean tides," said Baker. "We go to Crystal River because of the good water clarity, good depth and interesting fish. We visit Rainbow River to get a variety of diving experiences, and it has a good clarity of water."

Team Charleston members joined the class for different reasons.

"I decided to take the class to have fun and to learn more about the aquatic life," said Airman 1st Class Danny Raju, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Zone A Flight. "I enjoyed (trying to) catch the fish and being on the bottom. My favorite dive was on the Rainbow River because it was so clear and had many types of fish."



Tech. Sgt. Brian Athens, 437th Logistics Group, prepares to dive after placing the regulator in his mouth. The regulator provides air to underwater divers.

dive trip to the rivers. A 1997 graduate of the ORC class joined the weekend trip.

"This is my third trip with Rick Baker (and the ORC class)," said Staff Sgt. Mike Kretser, 437th Logistics Support Squadron Training Flight. "During my class we visited the Blue Grotto and Devils' Den in Florida. My favorite dive, though, was the Crystal River dive on Sunday because of caverns I got to visit."

Only the previously certified Open Water (or higher) divers were allowed in the cavern, said Baker.

Baker said he makes a lot of dive trips each year but it's not the main part of ORC programs.

"I've done a lot of trips to springs in Florida, and visited Palm Beach, (Fla.) Key Largo (Fla.) and also to the Cooper River (S.C.) for some local diving," said Baker. "I like to offer different scuba trips, but the scuba classes are such a small part of the ORC programs that we can't satisfy everyone."

Baker said to be certified to dive; members should sign up at the ORC.

"We have several classes set up this summer, just pick a class date you want and sign up," said Baker. "There has to be four people to start a class."

The ORC offers Open Water courses during the summer, and usually offers the Advanced Open Water course during the fall, said Baker.

Diving offers experiences that are out of this world, said Kretser.

"There's no other experience like it," said Kretser. "Not weighing anything and seeing the fish swim in front of your mask is great. There's serenity in diving."

The ORC's Open Water course is \$175, which includes books and class sessions. Trips to Florida range in cost from \$135-\$175, depending on the length of stay.

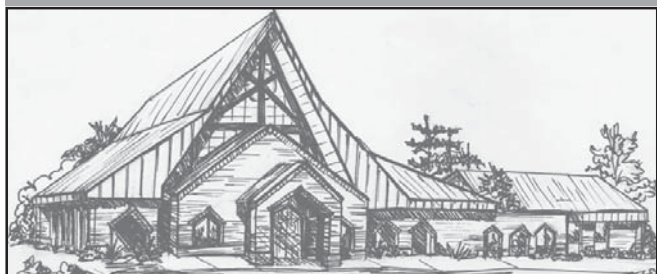
Advanced Open Water courses cost \$225, which includes both trips and all classroom work.

For more information, call the ORC at 963-5271.



Airman 1st Class Danny Raju (left), 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Randy Gillum, 315th Maintenance Squadron, spend time underwater at Rainbow River, Fla.

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive

Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Phone: 963-2536. After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services

Saturday -- 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass.

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church.

Weekdays -- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. For Sacrament of Marriage, call the Catholic chaplain six months prior to the wedding.

Protestant Services

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, 11 a.m. Children's Church.

Thursday -- 7 p.m. Praise and Worship contemporary service.

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

Orthodox: Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

Jewish: Call Jewish Lay Leader: Senior Airman David Winner at 963-2676.

Islamic: Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

Movie schedule

Admission prices:

Adults/Children -- 99 cents

Any child under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor child to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.



Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

"The Scorpion King" – The Rock

In the notorious city of Gomorrah, an evil ruler is determined to lay waste to all the nomadic peoples of the desert. The few remaining tribes, never natural allies, have to unite or perish. Knowing their enemy relies on the visions of a sorcerer, they hire a skilled assassin, Mathayus, to eliminate the visionary. **(PG-13) 92 minutes**

Saturday, 2 p.m. and Sunday, 3 p.m.

"Scooby-Doo" – Freddie Prinze Jr.

Free sneak preview; doors open at 12:30 p.m. Saturday and at 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

Scooby Doo and the Mystery Inc. gang meddle their way into a bona fide mystery that leads them into murky and possibly supernatural waters. Though Scooby's whereabouts are currently unknown, his clever crime-solving cohorts are, as always, on the case. **(PG) 92 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Life or Something Like it" – Angelina Jolie

What's the most important thing in life? Is it love, or is it your career? Is it work or is it your family? Lanie must ponder these questions after a street savant tells her that she will die in seven days. **(PG-13) 103 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

Sports line

Water aerobics: The Health and Wellness Center is offering a water aerobics class Tuesdays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-noon, at the base pool. The only cost for these classes is admission to the pool. For more information about water aerobics, call the HAWC at 963-4007.

Skin cancer screening: The Health and Wellness Center is holding a free skin cancer screening today, 1-4 p.m. All Team Charleston members are welcome to attend. For more information, call 963-6024.

Ice hockey: The Charleston AFB Hurricanes ice hockey team's next game is Sunday, 9:45 p.m., at the Carolina Ice Palace. Admission to all games is free. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jason Smith at 963-5536 or Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones at 963-5657.

Softball: The intramural softball season is under-way. There are multiple games during the week including SUP2 vs. Navy Hosp Monday, 6:30 p.m., at field 1, CES vs. SUP 1 Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., at field 2, and 437 Staff vs. MED GP Thursday, 6:30 p.m., at field 1.

Story and photo by Tech.Sgt. Brian Jones
437 AW Public Affairs

Golf balls were flying around Wrenwoods Golf Course May 31 as 124 players participated in the annual Air Force Association golf tournament.

The tournament consisted of 31 teams playing a best-ball format. This year's tournament was to benefit the upcoming Air Force Ball in September.

According to Capt. Bill Reynolds, 437th Medical Group and Air Force Ball chairman, the goal of the tournament and future fundraisers is to help offset ticket prices for everyone.

"With the legwork done by Lt. Col. Vic Sowers, (437th Support Group deputy commander and AFA member), this tournament was a success," Reynolds said. "We want to make it possible for E-1's and up to be able to attend the Air Force Ball.

"Last year's Ball was a big success, and we expect this year to top that," he continued. "We are making plans to hold it at the North Charleston Convention Center because of an anticipated big turnout. We expect about 1,000 people for the Ball. It is a nice tradition that everyone should be able to experience in their Air Force career."

Sowers said this year's golf tournament was a huge success with a great turnout.

"We certainly outdid last year," said Sowers. "Today's tournament raised \$2,500, partly due to a significant contribution from GEICO. We were able to give away some great prizes from some corporate contributors, and with the help of all the volunteers this tournament ran smoothly. We could not have asked for a better day."

The following were the top three teams:

1st Place (-23) Russ DeLuca, Don Shaffer, Ken Olsen and Dave Siegrist

2nd Place (-22) Bill Hammond, Brian Strang, Jim Furmanek and Jim Winston

3rd Place (-22) Kevin Cooper, Casey Boyer, Ed Jensen and Greg Steffers

In addition, winning prizes were:

Last Place, Ed Kelly, Corey Clements, Dave Deremer and Kory Knowles

Closet to pin (3 ft 11 in), Chris Meyers

Longest Drive (woman), Joy Huckaby

Longest Drive (man), Terry Hughes



Mark Lewald sinks a birdie putt on the seventh hole at Wrenwoods Golf Course May 31 during the Air Force Association golf tournament. The tournament raised funds for this year's Air Force Ball.

Boating safety key in making it back to port in one piece

By Chris Anderson
437 AW Safety

What will most of us do at least once this summer while stationed in Charleston? The answer is go boating!

Charleston has some of the most beautiful waterways in the country, but the water and the machine being operated on it demand respect. There are multiple things to be concerned about if you are unfamiliar with boating and the Charleston waterways.

Prior to joining the 437th Airlift Wing Safety office, I worked for a boat retailer and heard about all of the mishaps that took place over the weekend when boat owners would come limping into the store looking for parts to repair their damaged watercraft. The types of things that typically happened over their frustrating weekends included boaters destroying their

propeller and lower gear unit after hitting an oyster bank submerged about 6 inches underwater or running into a dock cracking their hull. I heard stories of children being pulled behind the boat on a tube receiving multiple lacerations after being slung onto an oyster bank, fathers being struck by lightning and dogs jumping over consoles knocking drivers out of the boat.

I could go on and on about seemingly silly mishaps, which could have potentially taken a life.

But there are things you can do to prevent these types of mishaps.

- Take an introductory boating safety course, which is typically eight hours in length

- Invest in a \$20 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio and listen to the report before hitting the water

- Review navigation maps and the corresponding water depths in

the Charleston area

- Invest in a communication device that will allow you to contact your local Coast Guard station

- Try and tag along with a fellow boater familiar with the local waterways

- Respect mother nature and the power of your watercraft

- Don't consume alcohol if you are the captain of the ship

The U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety (www.uscgboating.org) is dedicated to improving the knowledge, skills and abilities of recreational boaters with the ultimate goal of reducing the loss of life, injuries and property damage that occur on U.S. waterways. This is a good place to start the boating education process, but there are many other training resources including: introductory safety training resources such as your local Power Squadron, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Red Cross or State De-

partment of Natural Resources.

Only 10% of the victims of fatal boating accidents were known to have taken any kind of formal boating safety course.

Some other things to remember are to stay clear of large vessels in restricted channels.

Assign life jackets to each passenger, and make sure they fit, the straps are secure and adjusted properly and are readily accessible to that person should the need arise. Do this before you depart. It's too late when you're in the water.

Prepare a simple checklist to keep on board, and leave a float plan with a neighbor or family member stating where you are going and when you plan to return.

For more information on training, call the 437 AW Safety office at 963-5595.

(Statistical information was taken from the USCG website.)



Photos by Lt. Col. Ed Memi

Zachary Lusk, a little league first baseman, looks up with awe at Charleston RiverDogs first baseman John-Paul Davis. Lusk and his Little League team helped kick off the RiverDogs' Military Appreciation Night May 29.

RiverDogs host Military Appreciation Night

As part of the Charleston RiverDogs Military Appreciation Night May 29, the little league team coached by Staff Sgt. Linda Lee, 437th Aeromedical Dental Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Ken Packwood, 437th Security Forces Squadron, had a chance to take the field with the minor leaguers before the game.

"They thought it was a blast," Lee said. "It was a really good time and a good idea for any team."

Lee said each player on her team went onto the field with RiverDog who played the same position. They stayed there until after the National Anthem played, starting the game.



Haley Hinman and Marie Brewer wait with RiverDogs pitcher Jarod Matthews for the posting of the colors and playing of the National Anthem.